

January 28, 2010

Hello School Librarians,

Well, the day we all dreaded is upon us. After January 31, the POWER Library databases that we have come to depend upon will almost all be gone. We are still awaiting the official word from PDE/Commonwealth Libraries. EBSCO, however, has already announced that they will no longer be part of POWER. We also have unofficially heard that Wilson will be the new database in POWER, but we have not been notified officially. Susan Pannebaker, Director, Bureau of Library Development, Office of Commonwealth Libraries, announced on December 22 that the scope of the RFP was limited to the following categories:

- General full-text periodical database
- Newspaper index
- Business Reference
- Combination of the above databases.”

Hopefully, PDE/Commonwealth Libraries will be able to announce soon. I am sure they would tell us if they could, but that is government bureaucracy at work!

So, please channel your frustrations toward **the only people who can change this situation—your state representative and senator**. They need to hear your stories about how the loss of POWER databases impacts the students you teach and the resources you and your teachers have to use. 412 of the 500 school districts relied on the POWER Library databases as the ONLY subscription, professionally vetted electronic resources their students and staff had access to. But the bottom line is that legislators only care about how it affects their constituents—that’s you, your teachers, students and their parents.

Email and write letters to your state legislators and tell them:

- How many students and teachers in your building used the POWER databases
- How many lessons you taught or units that relied on POWER database content
- Log into the POWER Library databases and get your statistics (before that disappears too!) and use them to show legislators how many searches/uses your students have been making (see below)
- Describe one of the units and the unique resources your students obtained from one of the POWER databases

- Remind them that the new Standards Aligned System (SAS) that PDE launched has a “Resources” section that instructs teachers to use the library’s electronic databases and other resources which are not being supported.
- And, please copy me at [Kachel@bellatlantic.net](mailto:Kachel@bellatlantic.net) so I can keep a file of emails and letters to present to the legislators that I visit when I go to Harrisburg. Thanks!

In addition, ask your teachers, administrators, students, and parents to write letters and emails to your legislators. You can always write your own letter and ask all your teachers to sign it, saving them the time. Before asking students to write letters, please be sure to discuss this with your principal.

**It is the local, personal emails and letters that will move our legislators and only you can do it! It’s in your hands!**

#### **Obtaining POWER Library Database Usage Statistics**

1. Login to [www.powerlibrary.net](http://www.powerlibrary.net)
2. Enter username (your county) and password (powerweb)
3. Click on Statistics button on left
4. Select Statistics Report for 2006-2009 and then Statistics by Library
5. Find and enter your library’s PL code (begins with PL plus 4 digits)
6. Select Summary Report and a year. You will get a report by vendor, showing # of logins, # of searches, and # of items examined.

Please pass this email on as needed.

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*“At the dawn of the 21st century, where knowledge is literally power, where it unlocks the gates of opportunity and success, we all have responsibilities as parents, as librarians, as educators, as politicians, and as citizens to instill in our children a love of reading so that we can give them a chance to fulfill their dreams. That’s what all of you do each and every day, and for that, I am grateful.” – President Barack Obama*